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**HAVANA:** Dutch national Tanja Nijmeijer, member of Colombia's FARC-EP left-wing guerrillas, pose by a Che Guevara sculpture at Revolution Square in Havana, on November 15, 2012. Nijmeijer is in Cuba as part of the FARC delegation to the peace talks with the Colombian government, aimed at ending Latin America's longest-running insurgency, that will restart Monday. (AFP)



## Urirama Residents taking their case to court

ORANJESTAD -- After carefully studying the preliminary report and the final report of the MER Commission and after listening to the different unfounded declarations of the government of Aruba and of Aruban Parliamentarians; the commission representing the Affected Urirama Residents has declared the following:

- The Affected Urirama Residents brought experts from abroad to explore the details of the effect on human health by the wind turbines project. However, rather than give an ear to the scientific proof presented, the government instead has chosen to present unfounded attacks on the experts in question.

- Ironically, the government of Aruba thought it well to bring down a Harvard professional to speak at the Green Conference and speak in favor of and to sell their wind turbine project, but when another professional, also associated with the Harvard University, explained his study that was peer-reviewed which concluded that there would be dire consequences for the health of humans, they were quick to ridicule and label this professional as being impartial. While, it is no secret that this very professional's pioneer study has drawn the attention of the international community.

- We cannot judge the proof or information presented in the Dr. Nissenbaum and Robert Rand report subjectively. If we want scientific proof, we must let science judge science, and that is what was done with the Dr. Nissenbaum study. For all clarity, we must declare that the MER report is NOT a scientific report, it is a report presented by the owners of the project...and that makes it nothing more than a partial report!

- It is so sad to hear our



matter so important which has ramifications for 3000 persons, that the Aruba Parliament could not have allocated a realistic budget, nor the time required to do a profound scientific study. The manner in which our government handled this lacks all sense of sincerity or seriousness.

- A careful review of the Commission MER report reveals that they are alerting the government of Aruba and the Aruba Parliament, that even if they were to comply with the norms of Holland, this would have serious consequences for the health of people.

government officials, in their attempt to discredit the scientific study, compare the sound of an Industrial wind turbine with the sound of a window air conditioner unit. And, to hear government officials refer to residents of Noord as elites!

- How sad that the residents of Noord did not deserve a real and profound study about the health concern. To cite the MER Commission report: ... "in view of the short advice period and the budgetary limitations it was impossible to present a proper report specific to the location, the situation and with concrete indicators."

- How sad that for a

In view of the fact that the developer is pressing forward with construction work without any of the required legal permits, and that with the blessing of the government, and in view of the fact that Parliament appears to have no intention of calling a public meeting to address this matter; we are left with no other option than to take the matter to court to try and protect the general interest of the people of Aruba.

We appeal to the people of Aruba and in particular the residents of Noord to be on the alert for our next urgent meeting. We can be reached by telephone 630-1879 or by email: uriramano@gmail.com.



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## Customs Department to stay open every Saturday for the Christmas Season

ORANJESTAD -- The Department of Customs and Excise announces to that due to many complaints of delays from businesses in clearing their merchandise during the holiday season, the Acting Head of the department, Stephen Maduro, has made a written request to the Minister of Finance for his permission

allowing the Customs Office to stay open every Saturday. Customs will give services in the city section during the days of November 17 and 24 and December 1, 8, 15 and 22 between 8:00a.m. and noon.

The services rendered will be: declaration of document, receiving payments and releasing merchandise.

## Aruba Tax Bureau makes important announcement

ORANJESTAD -- The Aruba Tax Bureau has recently published a communiqué reminding citizens of a number of important matters.

**First:** It is extremely important to register your correct address at the Tax Bureau. This is the responsibility of each citizen and applies to individuals as well as to business concerns. In the event your address is not correct, you will not receive important communications, which could result in receiving an unnecessary debt and/or even an embargo on property.

In incorrect address could result in a myriad of unplea-

sant consequences. Here is a list of some examples of not having a correct address registration:

- **Client does not receive: Income tax declaration Form.**

Client receives an over-taxed invoice with a fine of Afls.250 up to maximum Afls.10.000. The inspector calculates the taxable income without any consideration to deductible expenses

- **"Aanmaning" (Compulsory Obligation to pay)** which is usually tied to a particular time span to respond.

*Continued on page 3*

## Aruba Bank lends vigorous support to small businesses

Aruba Bank, proud sponsor of the Small Business Week conference, opened the week's session with an energetic, highly positive speech by general manager, Marcelline Richardson. Promoting entrepreneurship on Aruba was the obvious focus of Marcelline Richardson's speech to the packed auditorium of eager-to-learn persons from all walks of life on the island.

"If you forget everything else I said today, I ask you to not forget the word passion, because passion is what pushes, motivates and brings about change, is what makes people act and results in success," said the brilliant Marcelline Richardson.

Aruba Bank expressed their pride in being one of the sponsors of the Small Business Week. They claim that Aruba is fortunate to have a "powerhouse" of knowledge to be presented at this week's conference. It was so important for that expertise to be shared with the community.

The majority of our entrepreneurs have a common characteristic: self motivation, according to Richardson. This, she indicated is what helps them to concentrate their energy on the possibilities of the future. Marcelline Richardson reported that from a recent research among company executives of Fortune 500 companies, a total of 40% of them admitted that they are happy with their jobs, which is not an impressive percentage. What, however was impressive is that, of the 40%, almost 70% of them were business owners...they owned their own businesses.

Richardson remarked that it is important for a business owner to learn to distinguish and separate what is ideal and what is practical, because not everything that a person wants is what he needs. This, she said, is an important matter for



someone who has or wants to start a business. "You must believe in your own success," she emphasized! Aruba will afford you the opportunity, but you must earn your own success.

As a banker, Richardson explained that Aruba Bank understands small business and during 2012 the bank has experienced a substantial growth in the small business segment. She believes that strong communities are built on the small business and it is essential to promote and provide opportunities for everyone to become an entrepreneur. It is important to invest in Aruba's commercial base, as well as do investigation.

We must offer incentives such as favorable taxation and other incentives. Changes must be made and we must be receptive to the changes. We must minimize bureaucracy and maximize the guidance

that people need who wants to start a business. We should support financing, give assistance and opportunities for exportation. We must support all types of businesses and encourage those that are "high tech focused" so we can compete in the global market. Richardson indicated that Aruba Bank supports her clients in different ways so that they can grow, and soon the bank will be introducing a new instrument to make their clients' life even easier while keeping their cost down.

Marcelline Richardson, Aruba Bank's energetic and brilliant General Manager said that Aruba Bank accepts their responsibility, has faith in the future and is making every effort to motivate growth. "We have a passion for small businesses. When you are successful, we are successful," she concluded.

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## Aruba Tax Bureau...

*Continued from page 2*

If the client does not respond within the stipulated time span, the taxed amount is increased with administrative fees and interest.

The law permits a client to submit an objection on any collection within a two-month period after receiving the payment order. Once this objection time span elapses, it becomes very difficult to get a hearing on the letter of objection. Even an eventual appeal to a Judge may prove useless.

- **Letters requesting information, or for corrections,** letters notifying client about restitution, etc. may never get attended to and/or received by the client

These are only a few examples of the hassle and problems you may encounter for not having your address correctly registered at the Tax Bureau.

**Second:** What is expected of you? The moment you change address, it is important to register the new address as



soon as possible. There is a particular form to fill out if you're an individual private citizen, the "Opgaaf Persoonsgegevens particulieren" form. For a business, the form is "Opgaaf of wijziging adres & telefoon bedrijven." You will be required to submit a copy of a legal photo ID and add this to the form. For a business you will add proof of registration from the Chamber of Commerce.

The abovementioned forms are also available for download online at: [www.siad.aw](http://www.siad.aw).

After filling out the forms, they should be deposited at the Tax Bureau in their Camacuri offices in Oranjestad, or at the government offices in San Nicolas.

The Tax Bureau encourages everyone to take note of this bulletin and to avoid the accumulation of debt and financial hardship. Have your address registered correctly...do so right away!

## Detective Department to move to more accommodating facilities

ORANJESTAD -- For many years the Police Station in Oranjestad has been used to house the different disciplines of the Police Force. Like many of the other stations in other districts, the Oranjestad building has been multi-functional. However, for many years the building has not been maintained, hence has deteriorated to the point where even air-conditioning is not functioning in different departments of the building.

The government has begun the process of giving the building a thorough repair. They have set out to find a suitable sufficiently spacious building where they can move all the Police services to, but to no avail. With the expansion of the Motor Brigade, they decided to rent a building in Dakota where they can house this unit of the Police Force.

Several months ago, because of the construction and upgrading taking place in the City Center and in view of the renovation to be undertaken on the building in the Wilhelminastraat, the Surveillance Department of the Force was



moved to the Judra Building in Dakota.

They have decided to move the Detective Department to the former AZV building in the Frankrijkstraat. The necessary changes are being made to that building to accommodate the needs of the Detectives. The building is secure, there's ample parking space and it is located in a central area of the city which is conducive to this specialized department of the Police Force.

Last Wednesday, the building in the Frankrijkstraat was inspected and it was learned

that the work is almost completed so that the Detective Department in Oranjestad may move into their new facility within a couple of weeks. The Minister of Justice was pleased to learn that this Department of the Force will be housed in a good building where they can work and provide adequate service to the community.

After the move of the Detective Department, work on the Wilhelminastraat building can begin in earnest in the hopes that soon they can return to a completely renovated and upgraded building.



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## Blessed Sacrament grand prize winners get more than they bargained for

As many of us know Aruba is by far one happy island and so too, now Mary and Ronny are finding that to be very true, since arriving on the island this past Sunday. The couple is the Grand Prize winners of an extended stay courtesy of the Amsterdam Manor, in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament located in Valley Stream, New York Family Festival Raffle held this past summer. The raffle was held as part of a week-long festival to raise money to help all those less fortunate in their parish, surrounding areas and to give to all those in need.



Ronny and Mary have enjoyed the beauty of the white sandy beaches and blue skies, with the tropical trade winds that blow through the swaying palm trees by day in front of the resort followed by a dip in the pool and Happy Hour Cocktails poured by Stefan in the late afternoon at Mango's Pool Bar. Then to the beach again for a view of the setting sun before a shower and dressing to go for dinner at some of the best restaurants the world over here on the island of Aruba.

On Monday what could be better than the Filet Mignon, Rack of Lamb carved table side by Priya, or Rib Eye steak to name but a few items that are all cooked to perfection at Chalet Suisse. The steaks were paired with a wonderful bottle

of Simi Cabernet poured by Lucia, followed by the ever popular Hot Kisses for dessert.

Meeting Robert, the panther driver from Divi Resorts was an experience in itself when Tom Avallone gave a verbal tour of the resorts properties highlighting the history of Divi Resorts and how it all started from a vision when founding father Walter Wiggins arrived on the island back in 1965. They drove from the Alhambra Casino through Divi Divi, Divi Dos, Tamarijn, Dutch Village, Divi Village around The Links past Windows and then back to the Casino where the couple went off to try their luck at the first free standing casino on Aruba, the Alhambra. As you may remember Tom Avallone started his career here on Aruba back in 1986 as the Director of Entertainment and Operations for the Alhambra Bazaar and Casino himself and has been here ever since.



Dinner at Passions on the water in front of the Amsterdam Manor could not have been more romantic that night as Mary and Ronny soon found out. There in the sand was a

table all their own with the waves crashing at the shoreline to keep them cool, torches a blaze casting a gently light to send a clear and undoubting message that love was in the air.

Humphrey, the Restaurant Manager, was very accommodating when taking the prize winners to the most romantic of tables on the beach.

Naomi, doing her internship at the Amsterdam Manor, arrived from Holland and only working at Passions on the Beach for just one week captured the attention of everyone with her warmth and friendly personality. A highlight at dinner was the music sensation of Cuban Sax Player, Jairo, who performed a medley of songs.

As if the day was not filled with all that one could hope for and could be, but back at the Resort the Carnival Show was in full swing with all of the

pageantry and spectacular costumes of traditional holiday festivals and of Carnivals past which was led by the ever popular host, Ryan Maduro.

*Continued on page 5*

## "Hairdressers against HIV/AIDS" at Cas di Cultura December 9



Lizara Pollak of Medicosmetics and Ryan Oduber of UNAIDS

The Aruba representative of Foundation E FARO, Ryan Maduro, has the sponsorship and support of L'Oreal hair products and their Aruban agents, Medicosmetics in an engaging event to observe World AIDS Day 2012. Inspired by a highly successful campaign begun in South Africa in 2001, then expanded by the L'Oreal Foundation and UNESCO and receiving a very positive response in 2009 on Aruba, this year they will again deploy "Hairdressers against AIDS" as the method to raise awareness against this global pandemic.

Medicosmetic's Marketing Manager Lisayra Polak confirmed their sponsorship and that of L'Oreal and Matrix products, for a day of free haircuts for the public at Cas di Cultura. The program will begin with training sessions for the stylists in the status and breakthroughs existing today regarding HIV/AIDS. The program has proven in the past that hairdressers have a huge network for promulgating the correct information - their clients. Aruba has over 100 hair stylists, and using that network to inform and dispel misconception has proven highly

effective.

This year's World AIDS Day theme, "Use your voice and your hands for a better tomorrow, free of AIDS" is typified by the hairdresser/client relationship. E Faro and Medicosmetics have put out a call to island hairstylists to enlist in the program by filling out a form and submitting it by Friday, November 23, to Ms. Polak at Medicosmetics or to Henry Valdes at Cache Beauty Salon in Ponton, which is spearheading the event. Each stylist is asked to donate 2 hours of their time. Lunch and beverages will be provided through the day.

Forms can be downloaded from the E Faro website: [www.efaroaruba.com](http://www.efaroaruba.com). They can also be submitted by Fax to number: 582-5134, or digitally by e-mailing them to [efaroaua@gmail.com](mailto:efaroaua@gmail.com).

On December 9, following the orientation program from 10:00 AM until noon, the participating hair cutters will be ready to accept clients for their free haircut. The styling session will be from 2:00 to 8:00 PM.

*Continued on page 5*



## Grand prize winners get more...

*Continued from page 4*



Meeting new people that become live long friends is not uncommon on Aruba either. When at the beach, splashing around with the waves, Ronny and Mary met John and Cheryl from Philadelphia. The couple are on the island visiting a friend of theirs who you may know as the Bestselling Author of, "An Island Away," a fictional book using Aruba has an experience not to forget. Daniel Putkowski, will actually be signing his Best Selling Book, this Saturday, in the Departure Hall of the Reina Beatrix International Airport. So pick up your copy of the book at any local bookstore or get one at the airport and have Dan personalize it before you leave.

To Mary and Ronny it was indeed a pleasure to have you visit once again our One Happy Island in the sun and we are looking forward to you telling all of your friends and family of the wonderful times you had, the people that you have met and the memories that you will hold near and dear forever, of your time here on Aruba and we look forward to you returning often.

Bon Bini always.

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## Curacao's financial problems getting worse

WILLEMSTAD – Minister of Finance, Mr. Jose Jardim gave a presentation in parliament yesterday on the liquidity of the island. The prospects are not good according to Jardim: without the right measures the government will camp with liquidity problems next year. This news came as a shock for the members of parliament.

The liquidity position of Curacao in September fell to 250 million guilders, while the island on 10-10-10 still started with a liquidity of 408 million. Liquidity is 173 mil-

lion this week. Jardim expects that this will decrease with another 20 million at the end of the year.

The Minister made it a step further: if the items contained in the instructions from the Kingdom Council of Ministers are not used, there will be no salaries for civil servants in April 2013.

Meanwhile, rating agency Standard & Poor's revised Curacao's outlook to negative from stable on Thursday and affirmed its A-minus rating, citing worries about eroding

public health and pension systems.

"The deterioration in the balances of the government of Curacao's national pension fund as well as the health care fund has weakened the government's underlying fiscal stance," S&P said in a statement.

"The negative outlook reflects our view that a failure to reverse the recent fiscal deterioration in a timely manner might lead to a downgrade," the rating agency said.

## "Hairdressers against HIV/AIDS"...

*Continued from page 4*

Entrance fee to the impromptu Cas di Cultura salon is 5 Aruban florins (\$2.85) where an informative exhibit and booths will be set up.

Organizers expect 10-15 stylists will be giving free haircuts through the afternoon. All proceeds from the entrance free will be donated to E Faro Foundation, which provides information and support for those with HIV/AIDS and their families.

The day will end with a Hair Art and Styling Fashion Show and Contest. First prize is a trip to the Expo Beauty Show in Mexico in 2012, including hotel, transportation and entrance to the convention, plus a basket of Matrix hair products. When signing up to participate, hairdressers will receive the regulations and requirements for competing.

*Rosalie Klein*



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Two missing after US rig blast, but no oil spill

CHICAGO (AFP) - An explosion and fire on an oil platform off the Louisiana coast in the Gulf of Mexico injured 11 people and left two more missing but did not cause a major spill, the Coast Guard said yesterday.

The incident comes a day after British energy giant BP reached a deal with the US government to settle criminal charges over the devastating 2010 oil spill that began with an explosion on an offshore rig.

"We don't foresee any major environmental impact from this," Coast Guard spokesman Ensign Glenn Sanchez told AFP. "This was a non-functioning rig. It's not like they were pumping oil."

While a thin oil slick was seen floating in the waters near the rig, it was likely from small amounts of oil stored on the platform. The blaze began during maintenance work when the crew was cutting through a pipe.

It was soon extinguished

and the rig appears to be "structurally sound," incident commander Ed Cubanski said at a news conference.

Earlier reports that two workers were killed have not been confirmed and the Coast Guard continues to search for the two missing workers, Cubanski said.

The Coast Guard could not provide details on the seriousness of the injuries but local media reported that four of the workers were in critical condition with serious burns.

US networks showed dramatic images of thick black smoke billowing up from the platform.

There were 22 people on board when the explosion rocked the rig operated by Houston-based Black Elk Energy shortly before 9 am (1500 GMT), Sanchez said.

Black Elk Energy was not immediately available to comment but posted a message on its website saying "our thoughts and prayers are with those who are impacted."

### Petraeus testifies before US lawmakers on Benghazi

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Ex-CIA chief David Petraeus told lawmakers yesterday he knew from the outset that an attack on a US mission in Libya was the work of terrorists, in his first appearance since resigning a week ago.

A bitter political feud has erupted in Washington since the September 11 assault on the Benghazi consulate, with Republican lawmakers accusing President Barack Obama's administration of misleading the public about its causes.

Congress has summoned officials to explain why in the days after the attack, which left US ambassador Chris Stevens and three colleagues dead, they blamed the violence on a spontaneous protest triggered by an anti-Muslim video.

On September 14, Petraeus had told Congress that that was the CIA's initial take on the events. Since then, the administration's position has evolved, and it is now seen as a pre-meditated assault by an Al Qaeda-linked militia.

According to Congressman Peter King, chairman of the House Homeland Security



committee, Petraeus -- who resigned last week after the revelation of an extramarital affair -- had changed his analysis since September.

"General Petraeus' testimony today was from the start he had told us this was a terrorist attack or terrorist-involved from the start," King said.

"I told him in my questions I had a different recollection of that and the clear impression given was that the overwhelming matter of evidence is that it was a arose out of a spontaneous demonstration and was not a terrorist attack."

King and other lawmakers said they were grateful for Petraeus' testimony but, as he went into a second hearing with a senatorial committee, they made it clear they still had other questions for the administration.

The US mission in Benghazi included a large CIA operation, which Petraeus would have overseen before quitting as US spy chief last week over his extramarital affair, which was uncovered by the FBI.

Republicans have accused

Washington's UN envoy Susan Rice of misleading the country by telling Sunday talk shows after the attack that it was part of a "spontaneous" protest against an anti-Islam video.

Several congressional committees, most of them closed to the public, are probing the Benghazi killings. A heated House hearing on Thursday saw lawmakers exchange bitter accusations about the White House's handling of the attack.

State Department and FBI probes into the attack are also currently under way, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has agreed to testify before House and Senate hearings once her department finishes a review of events.

US senators got their first look Thursday at dramatic real-time video footage of the attack.

However, the hearings have done little to resolve the partisan sparring over the administration's response, with Republicans strongly hinting at a larger scandal and possible cover-up.

### IAEA says key Iran nuclear site fully equipped

VIENNA (AFP) - Iran is ready to boost significantly output at its most controversial nuclear plant, a new UN nuclear agency report showed yesterday, taking Tehran closer -- in theory -- to being able to develop a nuclear weapon.

In findings likely to set

alarm bells ringing in Israel and beyond, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said that the installation of equipment at its Fordo uranium enrichment plant was now "complete".

Also taking an interest will be the "P5+1" world powers --

Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States, and Germany -- thought to be about to resume talks in early next year at the latest now that the US election is over.

The agency report reiterated its regular statement meanwhile that it was "unable... to conclude that all nuclear material in Iran is in peaceful activities".

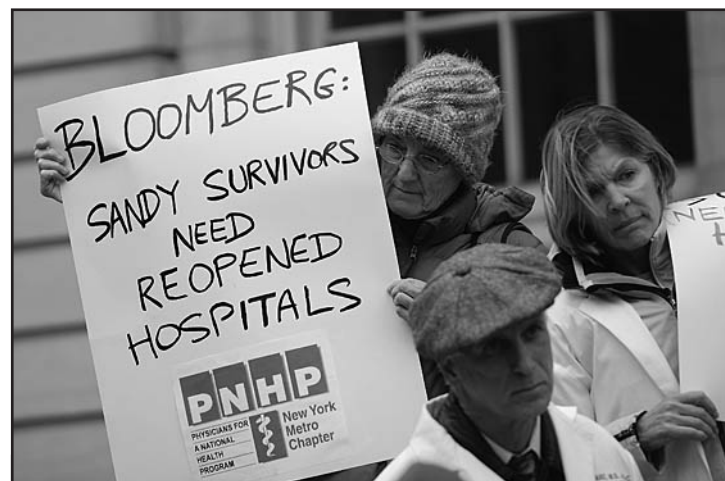
It also said that activities spotted by satellite at the Parchin military base, where the IAEA says it has evidence of possible past nuclear weapons research work, meant that any verification there would be "seriously undermined".

Iran denies working or ever having worked on a nuclear weapon and says all its atomic activities are peaceful.

If Iran uses the new machinery at Fordo to enrich uranium to purities of 20 percent -- technically speaking not far from the level needed for a bomb -- production could increase from 15 kilos per month now to around 45 kilos, a source familiar with the matter said.

Experts say that around 250 kilos of 20-percent uranium is needed to convert into enough 90-percent material for one nuclear weapon.

### New York doctors protest post-Sandy troubles



**New York :** A group of doctors and nurses held a protest outside New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office to ask for more help in rebuilding the city's healthcare system in the wake of superstorm Sandy, in New York, yesterday. About 30 health workers gathered outside City Hall to bring attention to what they said were the lack of resources in areas where hospitals, clinics and pharmacies were closed because of flooding. (AFP PHOTO)



**A woman sews the edges of newly made U.S. flags at a shop in Yangon. U.S. President Barack Obama leaves today for a trip to Asia that will include a historic stop in Myanmar. The United States yesterday lifted a nearly decade-old ban on most imports from Myanmar, saying it was hoping to encourage recent reforms before the landmark visit by President Barack Obama. The Treasury Department and State Department said in a joint statement that the United States would allow imports from Myanmar with the exception of gems, a sector seen as a major driver of corruption and violence.**





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## Thousands of angry Jordanians call for king to go

AMMAN (AFP) - Thousands of protesters made unprecedented calls yesterday for Jordan's King Abdullah II to go, as police blocked them from heading to the royal palace to vent their anger over big fuel price increases.

"Freedom, freedom, down with Abdullah," chanted crowds that AFP estimated at around 10,000 people, including Islamists, leftists and youth activists.

Publicly insulting the king or calling for his overthrow is punishable by imprisonment in Jordan so the demonstrators' slogans were a major departure for a kingdom that had previously been spared protests on the scale of other countries swept up in the Arab Spring.

"The people want the fall of the regime," the protesters shouted angrily outside the Hussein Mosque in the heart of the capital, using the rallying call of the uprisings that swept aside veteran rulers in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen last year.

"Abdullah, reform or leave, you have lost legitimacy," they chanted. "God is greater than injustice... Abdullah your era is gone."

Organisers said more than 25,000 people took part in the demonstration. Police put the number at 3,000.

In the face of the scale of the protests, the king cancelled a visit to London he was due to make next week, the British foreign ministry said.

## Ban to head to Gaza war region on truce mission

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) - UN leader Ban Ki-moon will visit the Gaza war region within days to push for a truce between Israel and Hamas as their conflict veers toward all-out war, officials said.

UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said Ban will go to the region "shortly" to "push for an end to violence" and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas said the UN secretary general would visit the Palestinian territories in "two or three days."

Ban will be in Jerusalem on Tuesday or Wednesday, according to UN Diplomats and Israeli media.

## Qaeda group rounds up unveiled women in Timbuktu

BAMAKO (AFP) - Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb militants in the Malian city of Timbuktu have arrested dozens of women for not wearing the Islamic veil over the past two days, witnesses said yesterday.

"Dozens of women were arrested Thursday and Friday by AQIM for not wearing the veil," a local official said on condition of anonymity.

"The Islamists were going into homes to arrest unveiled women," he said.

Islamist groups with links to Al-Qaeda took advantage of a military offensive by Tuareg separatists and the vacuum created by an indecisive coup in Bamako earlier this year to seize Mali's entire north.

Ansar Dine (Defenders of Faith) has been in control of Timbuktu, while the Move-

ment for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa has ruled over Gao, the other major city in northern Mali.

Both groups are under the influence of Al-Qaeda's top regional leadership however and have been enforcing an extreme form of sharia, flogging, amputating and sometimes executing violators.

New fighting yesterday and the crackdown on women for

not wearing veils marred peace moves by two of the groups controlling the desert north who said they were ready for peace talks with Bamako.

A Tuareg warlord said his National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad had launched an "offensive" to retake the key north-central region of Gao from Islamist rebels.



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## HEALTH & LIVING

# Rare gene mutation offers clues to Alzheimer's

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Scientists have found a rare genetic mutation that appears to triple the risk for developing Alzheimer's disease and provides important clues into how the so-far incurable disease operates.

Scientists from two independent teams stumbled on the same result, published in two studies Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine: a mutation in the TREM2 gene, which helps govern immune system responses, is three to four times more common among elderly patients with Alzheimer's than those without the diagnosis.

The hallmark of Alzheimer's disease is the accumulation of plaques and tangles in the brain tissue. In normal bodies, it seems the immune system's inflammatory molecules help clear that build-up before it becomes a problem.

The TREM2 gene functions to keep that inflammatory response in check, to stop the inflammatory molecules from harming healthy tissue.

But preliminary research indicates the mutation could send the TREM2 gene into overdrive, hindering the inflammatory molecules from doing their job at all.

"While the genetic mutation we found is extremely rare, its effect on the immune system is a strong indicator that this system may be a key player in the disease," said University College London's Rita Guerreiro, lead author of one of the two studies.

The mutation is found in fewer than one in 200 people, and in fewer than one in 50 Alzheimer's patients, which

means the mutation alone is unlikely to be enough to cause the disease.

A combination of environmental and hereditary factors are believed to contribute to developing Alzheimer's.

However, researchers said identifying this gene and its possible role in Alzheimer's is a step in the right direction.

"This is an important step towards unraveling the hidden causes of this disease, so that we can develop treatments and interventions to end one of the 21st century's most significant health challenges," said Peter St. George-Hyslop, of the University of Toronto.

Another of the lead researchers, Kevin Morgan of the University of Nottingham, said "the risk associated with this new variant is the largest seen to date and heralds the start of a new era in (Alzheimer's Disease) genetic research."

"At long last we are beginning to witness major breakthroughs that will hopefully result in therapeutic developments to help alleviate this devastating condition."

The scientists said that new drugs could potentially be developed to target the TREM2 gene and stop it from overly interfering in the inflammatory response.

One of the studies was done by an international research team based in Britain, Canada and the US, using a data bank of 25,000 people.

The other was done by researchers in Iceland, using data from 2,261 elderly Icelanders and then confirmed with population samples in the US, Norway, the Netherlands and Germany.

# Reseachers see cricket ears as model for better hearing aids



WASHINGTON (AFP) - New advances in hearing aids and medical imaging may be possible thanks to a tiny insect from the South American jungle, according to a study released Thursday.

The South American bush cricket, also called the katydid, has some of the smallest ears of any creature on the planet.

But despite a physical structure that is very different from human ears -- and an entirely different evolutionary history -- katydid ears function in a remarkably similar way to human ears.

Mammalian ears use a three-part process -- the eardrum collects the sound, the middle ear converts it from air-borne noise into liquid-borne vibrations, and a structure called the cochlea analyzes the frequency.

It had been well-known that the crickets had eardrum-like apparatuses on their two forelegs. But scientists were unclear as to how these tympana connected with each other and with the sensory receptors to allow the cricket to actually hear.

In the new study, published in the November 16 issue of the US journal "Science," researchers reveal the discovery of a microscopic organ that acts as a "middle ear" for the crickets.

The cricket version "relies on a system of mechanical levers, a sort of microscopic see-saw formed by its eardrum that makes the link to the inner ear," the researchers explained in a statement.

"The ears of this bush cricket are teaching us that

complex hearing mechanisms can take place in very small ears. As such we are learning how evolution has come up with very small, efficient and sophisticated microphones," said Daniel Robert of University of Bristol in England, one of the study's lead authors.

"We now have to learn how to make one like this," he added.

James Windmill, from the Centre for Ultrasonic Engineering in the University of Strathclyde, also in England,

explained that the insect mechanisms could perhaps be incorporated into a variety of technologies to help humans, "including hearing aids, biomedical imaging systems for hospitals, and ultrasonic non-destructive evaluation to assess the structural integrity of buildings and bridges."

He said he looked forward to "the next stage of this important research, bringing together bioscience and engineering to create the bio-inspired sensors of the future."

## Meat bad for morals, says Indian textbook



MUMBAI (AFP) - The pros and cons of meat-eating may be the subject of debate for nutritionists, but one Indian school textbook is clear: a fleshy diet will make you lie, steal and even commit sex crimes.

The unusual moral guidance appeared in a school book for 11-year-olds, purporting to offer education on issues from health and hygiene to sex education and exercise, the NDTV news channel reported.

On a page about non-vegetarians, the book said that they "easily cheat, tell lies, they forget promises, they are dishonest and tell bad words, steal, fight and turn to violence and commit sex crimes".

It also claimed that "it is the waste products which largely produce the flavour of meat", and praised the Japanese for their vegetarian diet - failing to mention their love of seafood.

The book's marriage advice was also questionable, suggesting women should find a husband between the ages of 18 and 25.

"To get married without a bad name is a dream of every young girl," it said.

NDTV said the text was published by the reputed printing firm S Chand, while the chief of India's Central Board for Secondary Education said books were chosen by individual schools and not monitored for content.

Despite a strong culture of vegetarianism and a religious taboo over beef-eating, Indians are consuming more and more meat as the country's economy grows and consumers become better-travelled.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization last year said Indians' per capita consumption of meat was running at 5.0 to 5.5 kilograms (11 to 12 pounds) a year, the highest since it began compiling records.



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## SCI-TECH

## Larger version of Kindle Fire tablet unleashed



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Amazon this past week began shipping a large-screen, high-definition version of its popular Kindle Fire tablet computers ahead of schedule in a holiday season challenge to Apple iPads.

Kindle Fire HD tablets ordered online were on their way to buyers and more would be available at US consumer electronics shops beginning Friday, according to Amazon.

"Kindle Fire HD has been Amazon's best-selling product worldwide since launch, and that was before we even started shipping the best tablet we've ever built," said Kindle vice president Dave Limp.

"We think customers are going to love web browsing, email, gaming, watching TV shows, reading magazines, and more on the large, stunning HD screen, with fast Wi-Fi and exceptional audio."

Amazon in September unveiled the new Kindle Fire HD priced at \$299 in what analysts saw as a clear challenge to the market-leading iPad.

The new Kindle Fire HD has an 8.9-inch (22.6-centimeter) display and was described by Amazon founder and chief executive Jeff Bezos as "the best high-end tablet anywhere, at any price" when combined with Amazon content and services.

The tablet is only 0.3 inches thick, and weighs 20 ounces (567 grams). The Kindle Fire HD has dual-band Wi-Fi and two antennas.

A seven-inch Kindle Fire HD priced at \$199 became available in September.

In an even more direct challenge to the iPad, a 4G version of the larger Kindle Fire HD will sell at \$499 -- the same price as a basic iPad.

Amazon said that 4G Kindle Fire HD tablets will begin shipping next week.

Offering the Kindle Fire outside the US for the first time, all except the new bigger-screen version went on sale in Europe in October.

Apple early this month released a smaller version of its iPad to take on Amazon and Android tablets having success in that segment of the market.

## Early humans used stone spear points 500,000 years ago

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Early humans were already using stone tips to enhance the killing power of spears at least 500,000 years ago, some 200,000 years earlier than previously thought, anthropologists said Thursday.

Attaching stone points to spears -- a technique known as "hafting" -- requires more planning and effort than simply sharpening a stick, and was important in the development of early hunting weaponry.

Hafted spears are common finds at Stone Age archaeological sites dating as far back as 300,000 years ago, researchers said.

But this new study, published in the US journal "Science," showed that people were using the stone-tipped weapons much earlier.

"Although both Neanderthals and humans used stone-tipped spears, this is the first evidence that this technology originated prior to or near the divergence of these two species," said Benjamin Schoville, study coauthor from Arizona State University.

Lead author Jayne Wilkins, from the University of Toronto, added "it now looks like some of the traits that we associate with modern humans and our nearest relatives (the Neanderthals) can be traced further back in our lineage."

The stone spear points analyzed in this study were actually uncovered nearly 35 years ago, at a site near the edge of the Kalahari desert in southern Africa that is known as Kathu Pan 1.

In 2010, a team of researchers dated the stone points to 500,000 years ago, using optically stimulated luminescence and other methods.

The new study reports findings from an analysis of how

these stone points were used, said co-author Kyle Brown, a skilled stone tool replicator from the University of Cape Town.

"When points are used as spear tips, there is a lot of damage that forms at the tip

of the point, and large distinctive fractures form," he explained.

The ancient stone points show evidence of this kind of damage, offering proof they were used at the tip of spears and not for some other purpose.

## The brains behind freestyle rap



PARIS (AFP) - Freestyle rap, an improvised style of the music genre associated with back-to-front baseball caps, baggy jeans and gold chains, has burst onto the science stage, shedding light on the workings

of the brain. Researchers at the National Institute on Deafness and other Communication Disorders in the United States have examined freestyle rappers' brains to see which areas light up during the creative phase. The stream-of-consciousness singing style involves artists making up lyrics on the spot, guided by a background, instrumental beat. The scientists considered it a good way to study the "initial, improvisatory phase at the interface of music and language".

Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the researchers compared the freestyle brain photos with those captured when the rappers repeated well-rehearsed lyrics.

They noticed a "functional reorganisation" during the freestyle phase in the singers' prefrontal cortex -- an area of the brain associated with complex cognitive behaviour and decision making. These changes, they write in the journal Nature Scientific Reports, may aid spontaneous creativity by modifying systems that regulate attention, language and motor control.

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## COMICS

## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



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## IF I RULED THE WORLD

## ACROSS

1. Canine dialogue in "Annie"
5. College degrees: abbr.
8. Football's Meredith
11. Trendy ski resort
12. Homer Simpson's son
13. Copy
14. "\_\_\_ Christie"
15. Lamb's pen name
16. Mack or Danson
17. Mongol emperor
20. Golf peg
21. Hard-to-find shoe width
22. That damsel
25. Poor \_\_\_ church mouse
27. Great Mosque site
31. He proclaimed himself "emperor of all Russia"
35. Definite integral
36. Hoo-ha
37. Wool source
38. "Norma \_\_\_" (1979 film)
41. Figure skater Midori
43. Wise ruler in the Bible
48. Shifting sand formation
49. Pot starter
50. Lover of

## DOWN

52. "Sail \_\_\_ Ship of State"
53. Eastern holidays
54. Tortoise's running mate?
55. "\_\_\_ Hur"
56. Pothook shape
57. Medicinal herb
1. Actress Gardner
2. Chimed
3. Penalty
4. Reporter's angle
5. "\_\_\_ Ha'i"
6. Spring
7. Weapon for

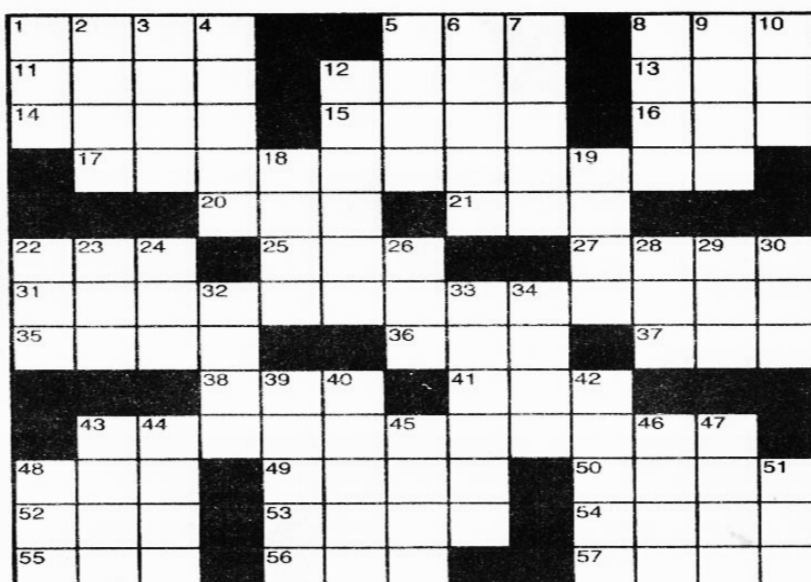
## Buffy

8. \_\_\_ processing
9. Unlock
10. Beatty of "Deliverance"
12. Directive
18. Toothed wheel
19. Use the ears
22. Hot Springs, e.g.
23. LBJ pet
24. A nice time in Nice
26. Exclamation
28. Mild exclamation
29. Unrefined
30. Feasted
32. Rack up dividends
33. Roman officials
34. \_\_\_ Jail

## (Monopoly instruction)

39. Rockhound's find
40. Anglo-Saxon workers
42. Home of Creighton University
43. 1941 role for Welles
44. Press
45. Slugger Mel et al.
46. Type of vaccine
47. Ruler before Galba
48. De Niro, to his pals
51. Catch sight of

Answer on page 106



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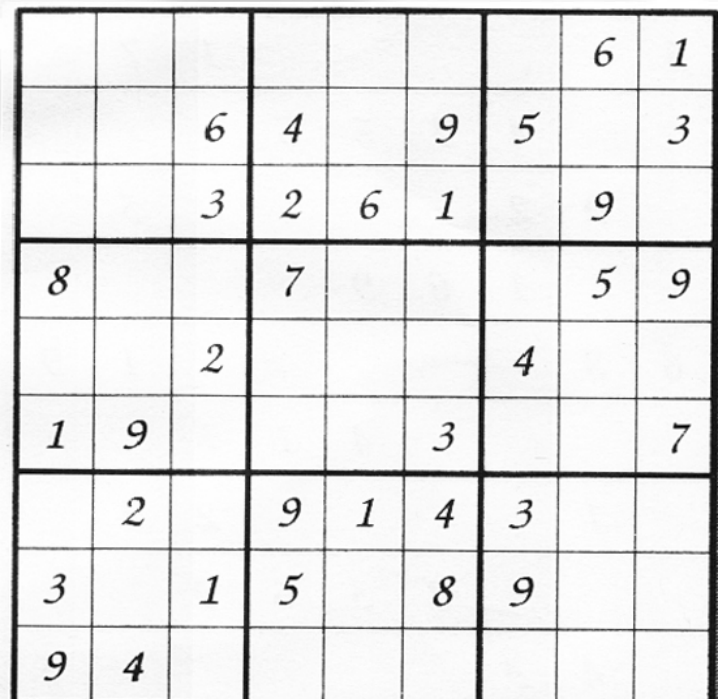
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## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

S	I	L	T	E	9	8	T	6
T	P	6	8	L	S	I	9	E
9	8	E	T	I	6	L	T	S
L	T	9	E	T	8	S	6	I
8	E	T	S	6	I	T	L	9
6	S	I	9	T	L	T	E	8
T	6	8	I	9	T	E	S	L
E	L	S	6	8	T	9	I	T
I	9	T	L	S	E	6	8	T

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.



Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as 11/16/2012	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.76	2.81	2.87
Switzerland	CHF	188.33	189.05	189.85
Netherlands	EUR	224.94	226.99	229.28
Sweden	SEK	25.26	25.98	26.78
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Norway	NOK	29.84	30.56	31.36
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## Finance

### France bank chief says end of euro would be 'disaster'

MADRID (AFP) - Bank of France governor Christian Noyer said yesterday the euro is here to stay and warned that its disappearance would be an "absolute disaster."

The central bank chief defended the currency as the recession-hit eurozone tried to contain a growing debt crisis, with Greece battling to avert default and Spain pondering a sovereign bailout.

"The future of the euro is absolutely clear cut," Noyer said in a speech to the annual assembly of Spain's Association of Financial Markets in the Spanish capital.

"I have absolutely no doubt that the euro will stay in the long term future," he added. "It is the natural continuation of the European Union, it was in the spirit of the founding fathers."

Noyer said the benefits of the single currency were "per-

fectedly clear."

"People don't realise that if the euro disappears it will be an absolute disaster," he warned.

The French banking chief pressed European powers to set up a banking union as an urgent response to the region's financial crisis.

European leaders agreed in October to establish a regional banking supervisor in 2013, the first step towards a banking union that would allow the European Union to directly help troubled banks.

"We are moving towards a banking union, which was missing in the monetary union," Noyer said. "It is a crucial and urgently needed answer to the crisis," he added.

Noyer urged that the banking union be established "swiftly" to allow for a sustained return of confidence and stability.

## Obama says 'tough compromises' needed in fiscal cliff talks

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama called yesterday on both Democrats and Republicans to make "tough compromises" in order to overcome divisions over deficit reduction and avoid the fiscal cliff.

Opening talks aimed at avoiding a year-end tax and spending crunch that could send the economy back to recession, Obama welcomed congressional leaders from both parties at the White House, saying Americans want action from them.

Neither Obama nor his Republican opposite John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives, repeated

any of the demands they laid out earlier in the week on whether taxes should go up for the wealthy.

Following the initial meeting, Boehner said that the framework was consistent with "a fair and balanced approach."

"To show our seriousness, we've put revenue on the table. As long as it's accompanied by significant spending cuts," he said.

Obama opened the discussions, saying the American people "want to see that we are focused on them, not on the politics here in Washington."

"Our challenge is to make sure that we're able to cooperate together, work together, find some common ground, make some tough compromises, build some consensus to do the people's business."

The first priority was reversing the so-called fiscal cliff, which involves a series of steep across-the-board budget cuts and tax hikes slated to hit on January 1 that could suck more than \$500 billion out of the economy.

The talks also are aimed at laying the groundwork for a long-term deficit reduction plan involving both a revamp of the US tax code to bring in more revenues, and some major changes to contain spending on Social Security and Medicare.

Also taking part in the talks were Senate Democratic leader

Harry Reid, his Republican counterpart Mitch McConnell, and Nancy Pelosi, the leader of the minority Democrats in the House.

Obama stressed they need to make sure the tax hikes do not hit middle class Americans.

But he did not repeat his call for tax increases on the richest two percent of Americans -- an approach that Republicans have rejected repeatedly in the past.

"We have to make sure that taxes don't go up on middle class families and that our economy remains strong and creating jobs, and that's an agenda that Democrats and Republicans and Independents, people all across the country share," he said.

Even if the fiscal cliff is avoided, the government still will be confronted with a massive debt load of \$16.2 trillion and a deficit that has topped \$1 trillion a year for four years running.

Debt rating agencies like Standard & Poor's and Moody's have warned that the US faces a possible downgrade this year if it does not get the deficit under control.

Both sides have said they are willing to shake up the tax system to eliminate loopholes and deductions, and Obama has signaled that he is ready to engage Republicans on the sensitive issue of "entitlement" spending on social programs.

### Sandy, budget worries hold back US factory output

WASHINGTON (AP) -- U.S. factory production of machinery and equipment fell sharply last month, held back by temporary disruptions caused by Superstorm Sandy and companies' fears that a federal budget crisis could trigger a recession next year.

The Federal Reserve said yesterday that factory output, the most important component of industrial production, fell 0.9 percent in October from September. It would have been unchanged without the storm, the Fed said.

Overall industrial production fell 0.4 percent last month. Utility output dipped 0.1 percent, while mining, which includes oil and gas production, rose 1.5 percent.

Manufacturing has weakened since spring, in part because companies have scaled back purchases of long-lasting goods that signal investment plans.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

F	R	A	Q	U	O	M	A	R	E	S
R	O	C	U	R	N	A	T	A	L	E
E	T	C	A	G	E	R	E	G	A	L
T	H	U	N	D	E	R	S	Q	U	A
R	E	S	P	U	P					
A	R	A	L	A	B	E	E	A	P	T
C	Y	C	L	O	N	E	C	E	L	L
H	A	Y	E	T	E	S	O	L	L	A
		C	D	I	A	L	I			
H	U	R	R	I	C	A	N	E	L	A
U	S	E	U	P	L	A	S	N	O	R
A	D	I	E	U	O	N	O	C	O	O
C	A	N	T	S	T	A	P	E	N	D



IRVING, Texas — Hostess Brands says it is going out of business, closing plants that make Twinkies, Ding Dongs and Wonder Bread and laying off all of its 18,500 workers. The Irving, Texas, company says a nationwide worker strike crippled its ability to make and deliver its products at several locations. Hostess had warned employees that it would file a motion in U.S. Bankruptcy Court to unwind its business and sell assets if plant operations didn't return to normal levels by Thursday evening.

## Bye-bye \$105 billion



The US\$105 billion of British taxpayer money used to bail out the Royal Bank of Scotland and Lloyds at the peak of the banking crisis may never be recouped, a parliamentary committee report warns. The state owns more than 80 per cent of RBS and 40 per cent of Lloyds after injecting 65.8 billion pounds (\$105 billion) of capital into the two in 2008 to help the institutions survive. It plans to return the money by selling the banks back to the private sector. However British parliamentarians are doubtful about the prospect of a return on the investment and call for a conservative approach to withdrawing public shares in the banks, saying otherwise the taxpayers' money will be lost



## Cas Animal Cont'd Angels save dogs on Aruba, part II



**Stephen Gallant sees Lacy and Edgar to Miami**

Today we continue the story of Cas Animal Foundation, a very appropriate seasonal tale of the salvation of three Aruban street dogs, whisked off by some angelic island visitors to live happy lives in the U.S.

spent the entire night in the car with the dog, to calm him and let him get acquainted, as they could not take him into their resort.

Beverly Haas of Chicago, who stays at Playa Linda Resort, also wished to return to



**Gabby with Deb Malo in her new home**

Cas Animal is a foundation dedicated to rescuing Aruba's abandoned and abused dogs and cats. Yesterday, we began the story of how its founder, Kirsten Arndt, was instrumental in helping vacationers from Boston and Chicago return with Gabby, Edgar and Lady, three dogs they had befriended while on Aruba.

Susan Swanson and her family members, Aaron and Kathy, had returned home to Boston with Gabby, but would have to wait for another dog they had decided to adopt, Edgar, as he needed treatment at the Contreras Veterinary Clinic to pass muster for admittance to the U.S. When they found Edgar on the street after dinner near their end of their stay, they felt it was too late at night to call Kiki to take him to the vet, so Aaron and Kathy

the U.S. with Lady, a sweet dog she and two friends had adopted during their stay. Lady also needed treatment at the vet's clinic; she and Edgar were ready to travel on the same day, but this was after Susan, Kathy and Aaron had returned to Boston and Beverly was home. Fortunately, good Samaritan Stephen Gallant, a regular guest at Playa Linda resort, was happy to help out. Kirsten transported Edgar and Lady to the airport, and Stephen accompanied the two dogs on American Airlines to Miami, where Aaron met them after flying down from Boston. This complicated procedure is necessary as it appears dogs must travel with an owner to be taken on commercial flights, and Jet Blue does not accept dogs in cargo, so the Miami flight on American Airlines is the only


way to get them to the U.S. Aaron, who truly deserves the title of "angel," then accompanied Lady to Chicago, and the loving arms of Beverly, before heading home to Boston with Edgar. There, Susan's sister Deb, who had lost her long-time companions to old age, gratefully adopted Edgar along with Gabby, to provide them with a loving home.

"Gabby & Edgar have settled into their new life beautifully," reports Susan, who personally laid out all the transport costs for the dogs. "They are both very friendly and not afraid of anyone. We have a really big family and they have met a lot of them already; both wag their tails and kiss all of us. Gabby was friendly from day one in Aruba, but Edgar was timid and shy. We are all shocked and happy at how friendly and loving Edgar has become in just a little over a week." The two dogs join Ruby and Maggie, two island dogs Susan had rescued on a previous visit. This is the season for angels to be active, and for these island dogs, there is now doubt they were in flight on their behalf.

The mission and vision of Cas Animal is to build Aruba's first no-kill sanctuary for dogs. Kiki now cares for nearly 70 in her home, which she has converted into a temporary shelter, but is always eager to see them adopted and will assist visitors any way she can in this undertaking. Her costs for feeding all the dogs she rescues and maintains are astronomical, as well as her veterinary bills. She is close to breaking ground a proper shelter in Kibaima.

If anyone wishes to help, they can support the foundation with donations in the form of payment to the Cas Animal Foundation account at the Contreras Veterinary Clinic in Shaba or to Animal Care Clinic in Paradera, phone number 582-8382. Donations can be made directly to the foundation's account: Cas Animal Foundation, CMB Bank account # 25762110. If you are not an island resident and wish to adopt a dog, or see one in distress, call Kiki at 742-8732 and she will help you as she helped the Swansons and Beverly.

**By Rosalie Klein**



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writer-producers won the producer of the year trophy for the chart-topping

## Juanes and Jesse y Joy wi big at Latin Grammys



Juanes and Juan Luis Guerra accept the Record of the Year award during the 13th Annual Latin Grammy show on November 15, 2012 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Colombian rock superstar Juanes won the Album of the Year trophy for "Juanes MTV Unplugged" and the Mexico City sibling pop duo Jesse y Joy won both Record of the Year and Song of the Year for their melancholy, down-tempo lover's lament "¡Corre!" (Run!). To absolutely no one's surprise, two of the Latin Academy's favorite sons, Juanes and Juan Luis Guerra, were among the top honorees. Hours prior to the start of the telecast, Guerra, the Dominican singer-song-

"Juanes MTV Unplugged." AFP PHOTO



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## Cool Casino...where those in the know go to play!



The great perks of gaming at Cool Casino in the Palm Beach has created a dedicated clientele; ask them what they like about the cozy casino, and they don't know where to start! The free slot tournaments every Sunday? Major pay-offs in their weekly Blackjack tournaments every Tuesday and Friday? Ladies' night every Wednesday with entertainment from great local bands? Or perhaps just the terrific benefits of being "One Cool Member" which earns players bonus points towards additional activities, free dinners, day passes at the Riu Resort, credit for play, or best of all: hard, cool cash! The casino opens daily at 10:00 AM and on Saturdays and Sundays, all are greeted with an early

morning "Kaffie Klatch" and triple points when using their membership cards.

Cool Casino is a great place to learn to understand



such table games as Craps and Roulette, as they offer free instructions and minimums for beginners with which anyone can have fun and feel very comfortable. High-stakes tables and a major weekly

blackjack tournament will keep veteran high-rollers happy, as well as periodic special events that attract an international crowd; stop by and check their schedule.

Add to all this free drinks while testing the slots or trying your hand at the tables, and the opportunity to enjoy exclusive pay-per-view major sporting events at one of their dozens of plasma screens, and you can understand why loyal patrons find Cool Casino THE fun place to play. Slot machines are open from 10:00 AM until 4:00 AM daily, and gaming tables open at 5:00 PM; ask for their schedule of special events and bonuses, as there are so many choose from, but every day offers something to get the adrenaline flowing!



## Eat like a local at The Queen's restaurant at Palm Beach Plaza



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plaintains and vegetables

An elegant décor with a breezy terrace overlooking Palm Beach welcomes guests to Varella Innocencia's very popular restaurant showcasing authentic local cuisine:

### The Queen's.

They may have moved from Oranjestad to hipper new digs in Palm Beach Plaza, but the food and prices are strictly native, which is what first won this charming eatery their loyal clientele. Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, acknowledged on the menu with items such as "Carni Stoba di Mamachi" - "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak, along with local delicacies like Keshi Yena - "Full Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lends that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.)

Seafood main courses for Catch of the Day Aruban Style to shrimp and a mixed seafood platter with shrimp, fish, squid, scallops and mussels. Meat dishes such as BBQ Chicken and Ribs or Grilled Tenderloin, each including a choice of 2 side dishes; all quite yummy and bargain-priced to boot!

The Queen's is located on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza, tucked into a cozy corner at the front of the mall. If you have a mind to try the real deal in Aruban food, without a doubt, this is the way to truly eat like a local. They are open from 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM, daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. Aside from an extensive menu they also have daily specials made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa is in the mood to prepare, so don't forget to ask about what isn't on the menu!



## SPORTS

# Posey, Cabrera earn MVP honors



Posey

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - San Francisco catcher Buster Posey, who came back from devastating injury to help the Giants win the World Series, was named baseball's National League Most Valuable Player on Thursday.

The American League MVP award went to Detroit slugger Miguel Cabrera, the first player in 45 years to win Major League Baseball's Triple Crown of hitting.

Cabrera, 29, was listed first on 22 of 28 ballots in voting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

He led the American League in batting average (.330), home runs (44) and runs batted in (139) to become the first Triple Crown winner since Boston Red Sox left fielder Carl Yastrzemski in 1967.

Venezuela's Cabrera also topped the league in slugging percentage (.606) and on-base-plus-slugging (.999) for a Tigers club that won the American League Central division and eventually reached the World Series -- where

they were swept in four games by Posey's Giants.

"I'm very excited. I don't have any words to explain like how excited I am right now," Cabrera said. "I never expected I'd end up winning because of Mike Trout, be-

Posey, 25, was listed first on 27 ballots, second on four and third on one of the 32.

He was the National League batting champion with a .336 average, joining two-time winner Ernie Lombardi as the only catchers in the league's history to win batting titles.

Posey's season was all the more impressive after he missed most of the 2011 season due to a broken bone and torn ligaments in his left ankle as the result of a collision at the plate May 25 of that year. He

drove in 103 runs, hit 24 home runs and caught Matt Cain's perfect game June 13.

Milwaukee Brewers left fielder Ryan Braun, the 2011 National League MVP received three first-placed votes and was runner-up for the award after a season that



Cabrera

cause he had an unbelievable season."

saw him hit .319 with 41 home runs.

In the American League, Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout, the AL leader in runs with 129 and stolen bases with 49, received the other six first-place votes. He was second on 21 ballots and was runner-up in the voting.

Trout, who batted .326 with 30 home runs, is the first rookie to finish second in MVP balloting, although the award has been won by two first-year players -- Red Sox center fielder Fred Lynn in 1975 and Seattle Mariners right fielder Ichiro Suzuki of Japan in 2001.

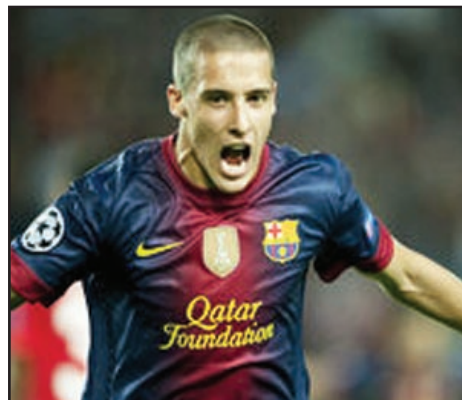


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## Qatar Airways lands on Barca shirts



The decision to allow commercial advertising on the shirt provoked heated debate among fans, with Barcelona's legendary former Dutch coach Johan Cruyff saying in 2010 that it was "sully the jersey".

Though the deal signed with Qatar

Sports Investments initially placed the Qatar Foundation on the club's shirts, it included a clause allowing a switch in sponsor after the first two seasons.

Qatar Airways chief executive Akbar Al Baker said he would work with Barcelona to benefit both the club's fans and its passengers.

The Qatar Foundation, which sets up Middle East education, science and community development projects, now becomes Barcelona's "human development partner", the club said.

Qatar will host the 2022 World Cup.

Barcelona, whose players include Argentina star Lionel Messi, currently lead the Spanish league and are eight points ahead of rivals Real Madrid, who are the defending champions.

MADRID (AFP) - Barcelona announced on Friday that they will put Qatar Airways on their shirts, displaying a purely corporate advertisement for the first time under a 170-million-euro (\$210-million) deal approved last year.

Qatar Airways will feature on the Barca shirts for the 2013-2014 season, the Catalan club said.

The airline will replace the Qatar Foundation, which currently features on the front of the Barcelona jersey with the United Nations' children's fund UNICEF displayed on the back.

Barcelona signed the five-and-a-half year shirt sponsorship, touted as the richest in football history, in December 2010 and it was approved by club members in September last year.

## Olympic champ Muffat sets 800m freestyle record



ANGERS, France (AFP) - France's Olympic gold medallist Camille Muffat set a new world record in the short course women's 800m freestyle event at the French championships on Friday.

Muffat timed 8min 01.06sec, smashing the previous mark of 8:04.53 set by

Italian Alessia Filippi in Rijeka, Croatia, in December 2008, a time before the ban on high-tech polyurethane swimsuits.

"My best time over the distance was 8:23," Muffat said. "Fabrice (Pellerin, her coach) threw down the gauntlet and told me I could do 8.04. I couldn't duck that!"

At the London Games this summer, the 23-year-old Muffat claimed gold in the 400m individual freestyle with a new Olympic record, as well as silver in the 200m freestyle and a bronze as part of the 4x200m freestyle team.

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## Vettel dominates free practice in Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS (AFP) - Defending world champion Sebastian Vettel shrugged off technical problems as he dominated Friday's opening day of practice ahead of this weekend's United States Grand Prix for his Red Bull team as he bids to clinch a third successive title.

Vettel, who was fastest in the morning free practice session ahead of Lewis Hamilton of McLaren, was quickest again in the afternoon ahead of his Red Bull team-mate Mark Webber as the champion team stamped their authority on the action.

The 25-year-old German clocked a best lap of one minute and 37.718 seconds to top the times in the second session to outpace Webber by

seven-tenths of a second despite missing much of the afternoon running due to a water leak.

"It reduced the running time, but it was not too much of a worry," he said.

Although Vettel was fastest in both sessions, he said he believed the opening day's action could end up being entirely irrelevant by time Sunday arrives.

"On Friday, you need to be careful and the fact it is so slippery can make a big difference," he said.

"I think there were one or two surprises today - and we will see what happens tomorrow. The track will constantly improve. It is important that we are among the guys at the top, and we'll try and improve the car and go from there."

Vettel's only remaining title rival, two-time former champion Fernando Alonso of Ferrari, was third fastest ahead of Hamilton and his McLaren team-mate and fellow-Briton Jenson Button.

## Sail around the world on your

PARIS (AFP) - Hundreds of thousands of internet gamers are currently up at all hours as they take part in a virtual version of the ultimate endurance sailing experience, the round-the-world single-handed yacht race the Vendée Globe. The non-stop race runs from November to February and over 300,000 have signed up for the second version of the virtual version of the four-yearly event at [www.virtualregatta.com](http://www.virtualregatta.com). The gamers were able to measure themselves against their heroes using options like constant weather reports and sail changes either for free or for a small fee with added options such as a GPS.

## Bills shut down Tannehill to beat Dolphins



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Leodis McKelvin had a 79-yard punt return and Rian Lindell booted four field goals as the Buffalo Bills defeated Miami 19-14 Thursday to kick off week 11 of the National Football League season.

Quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick had 168 passing yards and C.J. Spiller compiled 91 rushing yards on 22 carries for Buffalo, who snapped a three-game losing streak.

The Bills also posted their first win against an AFC East division opponent in four attempts this season.

Miami rookie quarterback Ryan Tannehill threw a fourth-quarter touchdown pass to Davone Bess at Ralph Wilson Stadium. But Tannehill was intercepted twice in the game's final two minutes, sealing the Dolphins' third consecutive loss.

He came into the game

needing 232 passing yards to surpass Dan Marino for the most by a rookie in Miami history.

The Dolphins have been very good defensively for most of the year but they have slowed in recent weeks thanks to struggles in their defensive game.

The win moves Buffalo into a tie with Miami for second place in the AFC East with a 4-2 record.

The Pittsburgh Steelers also hope to win this weekend to gain a share of first in the AFC North.

But Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger went down with a shoulder and rib injury in week 10, depriving one of the NFL's most heated rivalries of a little of its grandeur.

The Steelers have decided to go with Byron Leftwich at quarterback in the divisional matchup against the first place Baltimore Ravens on one of several key NFL matchups on Sunday.

Pittsburgh are 0-4 against the Ravens without two-time Super Bowl winner Roethlisberger.

The Steelers enter Sunday night's contest trailing Baltimore by one game for first place as Leftwich will make his first NFL start since September 2009 with Tampa Bay.

The Ravens are coming off a 55-20 rout last Sunday of the Oakland Raiders.

Torrey Smith caught two touchdown passes for a total of 67 yards and Dennis Pitta added five catches for 67 yards and a score for the Ravens, who established a new franchise record for most points in one game.

Indianapolis rookie quarterback Andrew Luck will face veteran quarterback Tom Brady for the first time when the Colts battle the New England Patriots on Sunday.

Luck has guided the Colts to four consecutive wins and has won six of his first nine career starts, passing for 2,631 yards and 10 touchdowns while running for 159 yards.

Last Sunday against Jacksonville, Luck rushed for two touchdowns in Indianapolis' 27-10 win. Luck was the top pick in the 2012 NFL draft.

The Philadelphia Eagles will be without their top quarterback Michael Vick when they face the Washington Redskins Sunday.

Vick suffered a concussion in last week's loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

Nick Foles is expected to make his first NFL start Sunday against the NFC East rival Redskins at FedEx Field.

Foles has hit work cut out for him as the Eagles will be minus four starters because of injuries.

Foles made his debut in a 38-23 home loss to the Cowboys, in which he completed 22 of his 32 pass attempts for 219 yards.

"Preparation is very important," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "Going against a good football team in the Redskins, another NFC East rival, a loud place."

"It's important that he has a silent countdown and understands that and that he has his fundamentals down and knows his game plan."

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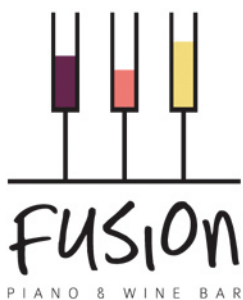
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## Catch some action this weekend at Divi's Int' Beach Tennis tourney!



Photo depicts the winners of the Dutch Beach Tennis tour, Margot van Doorn and Fleur van Haasteren, made a spectacular dive yesterday at Eagle Beach. The two are having a tough time playing against the super strong Brazilian ladies in the Divi Resorts Aruba International Beach Tennis Event, which is taking place this weekend at Eagle Beach. For Margot and Fleur the week is terrific already: they are playing their favorite game on a beach in the sunshine. Nothing can beat that! Spectators are welcome to join the Beach party which will be taking place through Sunday. Matches are scheduled to start from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. There will be live music, stands selling beers and food.

## Ferrer hands Spain 1-0 lead in Davis Cup final

PRAGUE (AFP) - David Ferrer put holders Spain 1-0 ahead in the Davis Cup final against hosts Czech Republic here on Friday after beating Radek Stepanek 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Ferrer, the world number five and Spain's number one, outplayed the 37th-ranked Stepanek on the hardcourt of Prague's O2 Arena in two hours and 58 minutes.

"I played very well all the match. I'm very happy with my game," the 30-year-old Ferrer said just after the rubber.

"I was lucky because in the important moments I played better than Radek," he added after winning the seventh out of ten rubbers

against Stepanek.

With five double faults and first-serve percentage just over 50 percent, Stepanek said "the biggest difference was in the serve."

"I wanted to put him under pressure with high percentage of the first serve, coming to the net, taking the activity, changing the rhythm."

"But I played lots of points from the second serve and then his part of the game was more efficient than mine," added Stepanek, 33.

Before the rubber, Ferrer predicted a close game recalling a five-setter they played in the 2009 Davis Cup finals when he finally helped Spain thrash the Czechs 5-0.

## McIlroy blames fatigue, putting

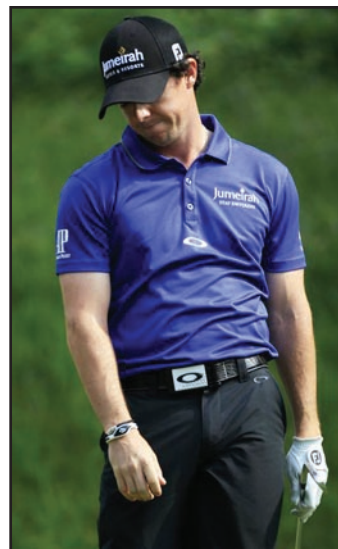
HONG KONG (AFP) - World number one Rory McIlroy said he needed to rest and do some work on his putting after he crashed out of the \$2 million UBS Hong Kong Open on Friday, failing to make the cut.

The 23-year-old from Northern Ireland shot a disastrous two-over-par 72 in the second round that included a double-bogey on his final hole, ending his title defence in embarrassing failure.

McIlroy, whose third-placed finish in Singapore last week saw him top the money lists on both sides of the Atlantic, also made four bogeys to go five-over for the tournament, missing the cut by three shots.

Describing his last-hole meltdown, he said: "I hit it a few feet by and then really knew that the second putt was the make-or-break putt."

"I lost concentration on the third, and missed that. So, obviously not the week I



wanted. I've got a few days to work on a few things."

The European Tour season ends next week with the lucrative DP World Tour Championship in Dubai. The starlet has already sealed the Race to Dubai after a hugely successful year but he had hoped to retain his Hong Kong crown.

He admitted to fatigue after his first-round 73 on

Thursday and said after his title defence went up in smoke that he was looking forward to some time to rest.

"I always enjoy coming back here, it's just a pity that this year had to end like that," said McIlroy, who audibly groaned when his approach shot went wayward on the fifth hole, to gasps from the large watching crowd.

He bogeyed that hole, and two of the next three, before his double-bogey at the last.

He had birdied three of his first six holes, suggesting he was on the charge.

"The wind was tricky. It definitely made play a little trickier. I didn't putt very well in Singapore last week. This week was the same, so a bit of putting practice is required in Dubai," he said.

Kiwi Michael Campbell was the outright leader at the halfway stage after he blasted his way to a 64 to go nine-under-par 131.



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